

Weekly 1/c Summer Reflection (Continued)

WEEK 03

We had another underway trip this week to work some aids to navigation that were pretty far away. More than half the time we were out was dedicated just to getting to the buoy we had to check on. While this may not have been terribly action packed, it gave me a good opportunity to drive the boat in open waters and work on JOOD qualifications. I also had the opportunity to work on deck, which was a ton of fun! It was hard work, and while I started out having no idea what I was doing, I managed to be a useful member of the team within a couple of evolutions. I had the opportunity to do a few "Heat and Beats", which is the process of slamming on a metal pin that's been heated by a torch with sledgehammers. As a kid, I always wanted to be a construction worker and I figure getting to do work like this with the heavy lifting crane, hydraulic inhaul, hardhats, and tools will be as close as I'll ever get. Being onboard the *Joshua Appleby* has been an amazing experience so far! Also, I decided to stay in this weekend to finish my engineering drawings. Now that I have those done, I can put in for a watchstander qualification board and start to "pay back the crew" for all the help they've given me so far.

WEEK 04

This week, the buoy deck training team was here. They only come once every two years, so to get the opportunity to learn from them was amazing. We practiced a lot of the standardized evolutions and before I knew it, where I was a break-in aft rigger last week, I was one of the more comfortable people on the buoy deck. I knew what was going to happen and when and found myself telling others who hadn't been out on the buoy deck much what was going on. It's amazing how quickly you can learn to do something that seems so difficult on first impression. I had my in-port watchstander qualification board and passed, which means I'm qualified to stand the watch by myself now! I've been told by a lot of the crew how impressive it is that I got qualified so fast as it takes most people up to two months to submit a chit for a board and it took me three weeks. Aside from working hard to get that knocked out, I've had a little bit of free time to go and see a concert in Tampa over the last weekend, and this weekend I'm going home to my sister's graduation. The opportunities I've had onboard this boat are simply amazing and all it does is make me truly excited to get out into the fleet

WEEK 05

In my last week, I've been able to stand a couple watches, which was nice for the people I took those watches from. If my hard work led to even a couple people being able to have extra time to themselves, I'm happy with that. I would like to have stayed longer, as I'm just now getting to be truly useful to the crew. If I were here for another week I could probably get rigger qualified and possibly OOD over the next six weeks. While the number of qualification I've gotten don't seem like a lot, I've learned much more and done much more than those qualification numbers would reflect. I've worked harder than ever before and have been motivated to do much more than was assigned to me. I've done track lines with 54 waypoints on multiple charts, sorted AToN folders, and other assorted tasks on the bridge this week. My only regret is the fact that I won't be here all eleven weeks, but Eagle calls, which will be its own sort of adventure. I've had a blast onboard this boat, learned a lot, and had a lot of fun. I hope every one of the crew members nothing but happiness and success in the future and hope to see them out in the fleet someday.

- Reported onboard *Joshua Appleby* 11MAY14
- Spent six days on boat working straight on in-port watchstander qualifications
- Saw free Bastille Concert
- Biked over 200 miles
- Conned ship getting underway, mooring up, in restricted water, during buoy evolutions, and in open waters
- Worked on the deck for two days for buoy evolutions as well as a day of Buoy Deck Training Team evolutions
- Saw Tampa Sunset Music Festival
- Bought a mini guitar
- Biked 10 miles to St. Pete Beach
- Read four books
- Got a nice tan
- Paddle boarded for the first time
- Saw lots of sea life up close (pelicans, egrets, dolphins, stingrays, manatees, sharks, fish, squid, puffer fish, etc.)

- Attended my sister's high school graduation
- Qualified as in-port watchstander in relatively short period of time
- Qualified in helm and lookout
- Should qualify in JOOD before departing and well on the way to U/W OOD qualifications and rigger qualifications as well as full SEOPS qualification
- Gave tours for Joshua Appleby open house
- Participated in three Heat and Beats